



Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force

MEETING MINUTES

The Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force met on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., at the Peabody Public Library, 1160 E SR 205 Columbia City, IN 46725.

I. Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch Calls the Meeting to Order (11:00 a.m.) a. Introduction of Task Force Members

Task Force Members Present: Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Julie Reynolds, Steve Cook, Jason Meyer, Kim Dodson, Shawn Fulton, Kim Milas, Jonathon Burlison, Christine Dahlberg, Joshua Bougie and Dr. Derek Nord.

Members Absent: Nancy Holsapple (Nancy Zemaitis, Assistant Director of the Indiana Office of Special Education attended in her place), Terry Stigdon (David Reed attended in her place), Susan Rinner (Dr. Steven Counsell attended in her place), Kathleen McAllen, Joe Langerak and Trent Fox.

II. Listening Session – Facilitated by George Schrumpf, Passages Board Member (11:05 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.)

Danielle Tipps, Easer Seals ARC of NE Indiana, VP The remarks were around structured family caregiving (SFC) and the caregiver (DSP) shortage. Individuals using SFC are having better outcomes.

Melanie Thornsberry, Manager, Passages Residential Group Homes. Her comments were around the benefits of Group Homes.

Jennifer Stemen, Mother of three special needs children who receive waiver services. Ms. Stemen recommends changes where parents and caregivers could access information in one place. This could improve the quality of the lives. She also mentioned the DSP shortage because of the low wages. She stated that there is a crisis that is creating a disruptive, dangerous environment. There is an educational disparity in elementary and middle school – there is a swift decline in academic services.

Dave Stemen, father of 3 special needs children. He described his daily life with his children. They see different options for each children but wonder what options will be left when the time comes and services are needed in the future.

Pam Hoyt, Senior Director of Residential and Day Services for Passages. Her comments were around creating and not taking away options for individuals.



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Mike Harmon, Recipient of Services from Passages. Mike lives in a group home and he works in the community. He cannot live independently. He is the President of the Self-Advocacy group called “Navigators.” He encourages the Task Force to continue to help individuals live and work as independently as possible in the community.

Nancy Moore, Director of Possibilities NE. They will serve almost 800 children in one year. Her comments were around lack of access to services in the rural communities.

John French, Family member of a person with a disability. After his parents died, he and his sister began as primary caregivers to his disabled brother. He spoke about their experience of locating Passages and the exceptional services for the individuals. It is important resources continue to be made available so that families can benefit from them.

Vicki Morton, parent of a child with a disability. Her son attends services at Cardinal Services. She’s concerned about the staffing crisis. There is a waiting list now for individuals to receive services. Choice is very important for individuals.

Elaine K.Moser, ARC of Noble County Foundation. She has been with services since 1972 and is very happy. Her comments were around the things she gets to do that she enjoys very much.

Break – 15 minute

III. Review and Approval of September 19th Meeting Minutes
Meeting minutes were approved.

IV. Discussion and Approval of Final Report
Dr. Derek Nord walked the Task Force through the draft report. The report was adopted by consensus and will be submitted (after minor edits) to the Indiana General Assembly.

V. Next Steps for Task Force
Motion was approved by consensus that: If the need is there, the Task Force members are willing to continue. If the need is there and it is recognized and if determined by the General Assembly.

VI. Task Force Discussion/Additional Business

VII. Meeting Adjourned